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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/056,776

01/24/2002

Philippe Vandermeresch

02P00754US

4586

7590

03/30/2006

Siemens Corporation
Attn: Elsa Keller, Legal Administrator
Intellectual Property Department
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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, STEVEN H D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2616

DATE MAILED: 03/30/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/056,776

Applicant(s)

VANDERMERSCH, PHILIPPE

Examiner

Steven HD Nguyen

Art Unit

2616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Laursen (USP 6847618) in view of Simard (USP 6940826).

Regarding claims 1, 9, 17 and 25-26, Laursen discloses a method for providing a conferencing session, comprising receiving inputs from a number of participants in a conferencing session (Fig 13, ref 1310); and combining received inputs into a first sub-packet and a second sub-packet (Fig 13A, Ref 1330 and 1350), wherein the first sub-packet has a first payload and the second sub-packet has a second payload, the first payload and the second payload including inputs combined from at least a portion of the received inputs from the number of participants (Fig 13A, Ref 1330), wherein the first payload includes at least one received input that is not included in the second sub-packet (Fig 13A, ref 1350). However, Lauren fails to disclose a method and system for generating an output packet that includes the first and second packet. in the same field of endeavor, Simard discloses a conference unit for generating an output multicasting transmission that includes mixed voice signal and unmixed voice signals for transmitting the conferees (Col. 11, lines 32-64).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to apply a method and system for establishing a single multicast

transmission which includes the mixed and unmixed voice signals to the conferees wherein the single multicast transmission must include the indicators to identify which voice signals associates with a conferee as disclosed by Simard into the teaching of Laursen. The motivation would have been to reduce the header overhead of voice stream.

Regarding claims 2, 10 and 18, Laursen discloses determining a number of prominent inputs from the received inputs, the determined prominent inputs utilized to provide the first payload for the first sub-packet and the second payload for the second sub-packet (Fig 13A, Ref 1310, 1320, 1330 and 1350).

Regarding claims 3, 11 and 19, Laursen discloses inputs are determined as prominent based upon a characteristic including at least one of loudness, signal strength, clarity, and prominence history (Fig 13A, Ref 1310).

Regarding claims 4 and 20, Laursen discloses the second sub-packet includes at least one received input that is not included in the first sub-packet, wherein the at least one received input that is not included in the first sub-packet includes a next most prominent received input (Fig 13A, Ref 1310, the first and second active speakers).

Regarding claims 5, 12 and 21, Simard discloses configuring the sub-packets in the output packet so that upon receipt of the output packet by a participant, the participant examines the packets and outputs a first examined sub-packet which does not include an indication that the sub-packet includes content received from the participant (Col. 11, lines 32-64, conference only extract voice signal that does not contain its own voice signal).

Regarding claims 6, 13 and 22, Laursen and Simard fails to disclose the output packet is configured as a UDP packet which encapsulates the first sub-packet and the second sub-packet,

the first sub-packet and the second sub-packet configured as RTP packets. However, the examiner takes an official notice that a method and system for multiplexing a plurality of RTP packets into UDP packet is well known and expected in the art at the time of invention was made to implement this teaching into the system and method of Laursen and Simard. The motivation would have been to reduce the header overhead of voice streams.

Regarding claims 7, 14 and 23, Laursen discloses the first sub-packet and the second sub-packet include headers indicating originating participants of the first payload and the second payload (Fig 15).

Regarding claim 15, Laursen and Simard fails to disclose the headers are contributing sources (CSRC) headers. However, the examiner takes an official notice that a method and system for using CSRC to identify source is well known an expected in the art which uses Real time transport protocol. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to apply CSRC field into the RTP packets of Laursen and Simard. The motivation would have been to reduce the header overhead of voice streams.

Regarding claims 8, 16 and 24, Simard inherently discloses transmitting the output packet to at least a portion of the number of participants in the conferencing session utilizing a multicast IP address (Col. 11, lines 32-64, single multicast, multicast address).

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Marshall (USP 5384772) discloses a method and system for mixing voice packets and transmitting them back to the clients.

Kung (USP 6671262) discloses a conference server.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven HD Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-3159. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wellington Chin can be reached on (571) 272-3134. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Steven HD Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2616
March 24, 2006